

REMARKS

The Amendments

Claims 1-13, 62-95, and 96-135 have been withdrawn. Consequently, Groups I, IV, and V are not represented in the pending claims.

Pending claims 136, and 142-167 are based on amendments to original claims 14-35 and 36-61. Consequently, the pending claims correspond to claims in Groups II and III. Specifically, pending claims 136-154 correspond to Group II and pending claims 155-167 correspond to Group III.

Pending claims 137-141 are new claims. Support for claims 137-139 can be found at page 19, lines 15-18. Support for claims 140-141 can be found on page 17, lines 9-10, and page 19, line 19 through page 20, line 22.

The remaining amendments are believed to be self-explanatory.

Restriction Election

The Examiner has required restriction to one of five groups under 35 U.S.C. §121. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally select, with traverse, Group II, pending claims 136-154, drawn to a polymer grafted with polymers.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the request for restriction between Groups II and III, the only remaining groups covered by the pending claims 136-167. Claim 155, from which claims 156-167 depend (i.e. all of Group III claims), now defines a process for generating the product defined by claim 136 (i.e. Group II). Applicants therefore believe that claims 136-154, and 155-167 do not define patentably distinct inventions.

Species Election

The Examiner has required election of one of two species. Applicants are required under 35 USC §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim

as provided by 37 CFR §1.141.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, species (2):
compositions/methods that comprise a blend of resins.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the request for election of species. The amended claims are directed solely to a hybrid polymer comprising a substrate polymer with one or a plurality of polymers grafted thereon. In view of the broad nature of the "substrate polymer" element, Applicants believe that any search conducted on the claimed subject matter would inherently embrace substrate polymers comprising one resin or a blend of resins. Consequently, only a single search is necessary to cover both species.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute claims directed to the remaining allegedly distinct groups in one or more continuing or divisional applications.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 463-8133.

Respectfully submitted,

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